

## **Historic, archived document**

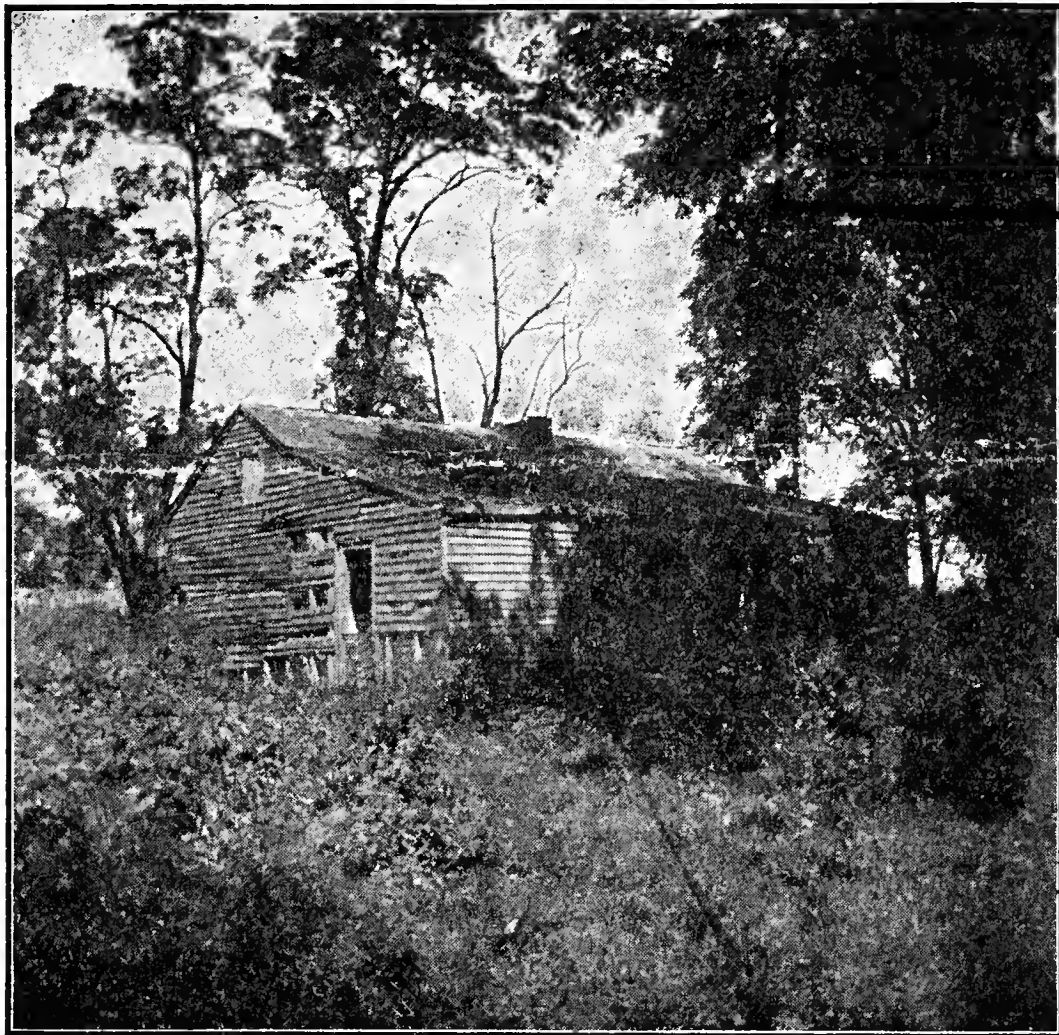
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# 1939-THE OTWELL IRIS FIELDS-1939

CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS

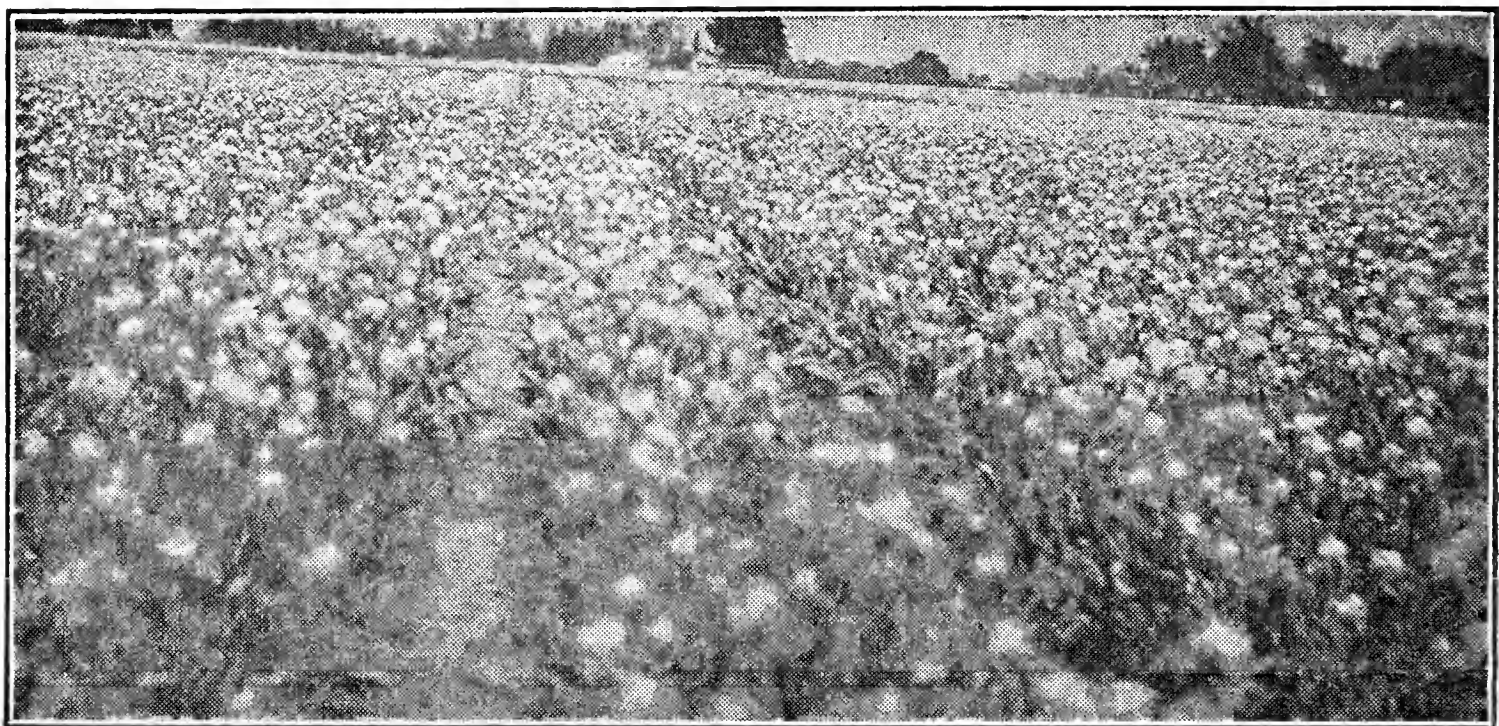


**This** is the home of my Grandmother—one hundred years ago. She and her four sons and five daughters, of which my father was the oldest, constituted the most religious family I have ever known. I have seen her go upon her knees and talk to the Lord in simple child-like faith, saying, “Now Lord, you gave me these nine children and you will have to help me take care of them. I can’t do it without you.” And not for a moment did she ever doubt. My father and mother built their home close by and raised eight children to maturity on 20 acres of stump land. I have seen my mother put the sugar bowl on the table for three months in succession without a grain of sugar in it. And we never knew we were poor. We learned to live on hard work and I love it yet. And only four minutes from this cabin I am sitting in my office out here on the farm—telling you about my Iris fields.

**Fifty thousand people** come each year to ponder upon these lovely acres. These fields of beauty are grown for you. They are kept and embellished for your happiness. They would not be half so beautiful, nor I half so happy, if you did not come to see us.

In this modest folder there is not one variety that I have not grown and tested for its health and beauty before offering it to you. And I do not see how I can spend the rest of my time to better advantage, than to send these lovely creations out all over the broad expanse of our land in the certainty that you too will catch the spirit I am trying to tell you about.

**WILL B. OTWELL**



Please look away off to the north—nearly a quarter of a mile—and contemplate the beauty of a **25-acre Iris Field** when in full bloom. Two hundred varieties of the loveliest things that I know how to grow. Quarter of a million lovely, lovely, lovely **Sky Blue** in one field. If that won't make you **drive slow**, you are hopeless. Looks like people come from everywhere. Last May on the big day, 5,000 automobiles came into our Iris Fields. No crowding, no congestion, no honking of horns by impatient drivers—nothing but good words for everybody and everything. The loveliest people in the world come to see us in May. They learned years ago how glad we are to have them. Please observe **one-way traffic**—entering at the north, and for goodness sake—**drive slow**.

WILL B. OTWELL

## For Your Information

I grow no flowers but Irises but I grow **them** by the millions.

No shipments made until after blooming season.

The later you plant your Irises, the more they will bloom the following May.

Send me your orders soon as you make up your mind and I will ship at best time.

July, August, September and October are good planting months—the weather has lots to do with it.

If you live in far distant states, enclose 25 cents extra to help pay postage. And I will get even by adding some nice variety to your order—free.

At prices quoted in this folder, all shipments go to you by **Parcels Post, Prepaid**.

**Don't scold.** That's the cheapest thing in the world. Write a courteous letter about any mistakes and you will get the same in reply.

**Our Mail**—It was the Otwell postage stamps that gave Carlinville free mail delivery and every day during Iris time the post office sends to our warehouse for our packages. Great is the blessing of Uncle Sam's postal service.

Please look over the full page of Bargain Collections and see if some of them do not answer your requirements.

It is usually cheaper to buy that way, as we often take up hundreds of collections at one time. That lessens the expense of digging. I have used lots of study to make the collections so they will fit all conditions and all purses and give you the most color and harmony for your money.

**This Iris Folder**—It would be an easy matter to go to a print shop and get a big catalogue printed—with lots of fine, expensive pictures and in the end you would have it to pay for. But this little folder tells the story in simple language and allows me to sell the Irises much cheaper. I have hundreds of pretty, attractive snapshots—taken in my own fields and I wish I could bring them all to you, but the few little ones that I am able to squeeze in will give you some idea of our fields. Twenty-five solid acres.

Read about the **Red Collection** on page 7.

**Our Prices**—We don't let others undersell us and we do not know of any firm that grows better stock. Everything is guaranteed to please you or your money will be refunded.

**Terms**—All orders are cash. No shipments made C. O. D.

Turn to page 7 and read all about my reddest collection.

Other growers may have more **Reds** than I, but I do not know who they are.

**12 of a Kind**—Where the folder quotes Irises at one dollar per dozen, it means a dozen of one kind. Sometimes we must travel a mile or two taking up a rhizome here and one there to fill out a dozen and such cases the plants are charged at the single rate. To get the dozen rate it is necessary to order a dozen of one kind.

You can part with your money very fast by buying new and untried high priced sorts. Many new ones cost \$10 each. Some \$50.

But why throw your money away? Why pay ten dollars for a new pink Iris when twenty-five cents will buy as good or better in some tried and true older sort?

**Iris Beauty**—Plant fewer sorts and plant more of one sort if you wish to have real Iris Beauty. Plant at least three of a kind and better yet, a dozen of each kind.

Please drive a little slower. Last year there were 34,000 people killed by automobiles in the U. S. Won't you please be careful to drive a little slower when you enter the Iris Fields?

My fields comprise about two hundred different varieties. I do not try to keep up with the new and high priced novelties.

Some new ones are better than some of the old ones. Also many of the old standard varieties are far better and healthier than lots of the new ones.

**More Than a Million**—Our Iris fields contain more than a million plants and not many are priced over 25 cents. Most all of them can be bought as low as 25 cents each, or one dollar per dozen.

If you receive two or more circulars just alike, please drop the extra ones in your outgoing letters. Thank you.  
W. B. O.

## REVISED LIST OF OLD AND NEW VARIETIES

### All Sent Parcel Post, Prepaid

**Afterglow**—Soft grayish lavender pink shading to buff. Branched—very attractive. 25 cents.

**Alan Hoyt**—Rich brown and buff iris—early—huge flowers—Height 42 inches. 25 cents.

**Alcazar**—Light violet standards, brilliant purple falls. Tall. 25 cents.

**Alpenglow**—A large purplish blue iris, falls faintly marked with white—tall and attractive. 25 cents.

**Alta California**—A large, clear, deep yellow. One of the newest and most satisfactory grown. 48 inches. 50 cents.

**Amanacer**—A fine blend of pastel shades. 25 cents.

**Anndelia**—A lovely new plicata. Falls are white with feather stitch edging of bright rose purple. Standards, lilac and beautifully ruffled. 25 cents.

**Apache**—Large rusty red flower—resembles a brown orchid. Much admired. 25 cents.

**Aphrodite**—A tall lovely pink self. Rates high. 25 cents.

**Argynnis**—Yellow standards, velvety violet carmine falls. 25 cents.

**Avatar**—Heliotrope standards, violet falls. 25 cents.

**Blue Banner**—A gorgeous blue bi-color. Standards bright lavender blue, beautifully frilled, falls deep rich pansy with a border of bright lavender matching the standards. 25 cents.

**Blue Velvet**—An intense rich, deep blue iris self. Velvety. 25 cents.

**Blue Jay**—Rich blue self—tall and late. 25 cents.

**Bridesmaid**—Snow white, good height. 25 cents.

**Cadenza**—Beautiful, tall, new iris of smoky pastel shades with blue splash in center of falls. 25 cents.

**Caprice**—Fine magenta red—very fragrant. 25 cents.

**Cardinal**—Rich red purple. 35 cents.

**Cavalier**—Fine clear blue standards, deep purplish blue velvety falls. 25 cents.

**Chalcedony**—Beautiful lavender pink with orange throats, making a very attractive flower. Long season. 25 cents.

**Chromylla**—A large beautiful flower of good form and texture in yellow chrome. 35 cents.

**Cinnabar**—Deep velvety bi-color in rich purple. Very attractive. 25 cents.

**Cluny**—Pale lilac blue standards, drooping falls of a slightly deeper shade. 25 cents.

**Colias**—A yellow self of fine texture and quality. 25 cents.

**Columbine**—Nothing finer in a white iris—same quality as Aphrodite—one of its parents. Number of plants limited. 50 cents.

**Coppersmith**—Extra fine large flowers of coppery red. Velvety. 25 cents.

**Coronation**—Fine clear yellow self. 25 cents.

**Crimson King**—Dark purplish red, almost black. 25 cents.

**Cydalise**—A really lovely yellow plicata etched around the falls with chocolate brown. Very unusual. 25 cents.

**Dalila**—Creamy standards, rusty red falls. 25 cents.

**Dauntless**—Sold for \$35 for a single plant only a few years ago—A wonderful bloomer and a favorite with all our visitors. 50 cents.

**Dejah**—Dull silvery standards, bright mauve blue falls. 25 cents.

**Dogrose**—Fine large beautiful flower—pink tone—one of the best. 40 cents.

**Drake**—A pale blue self of a silvery texture. Very lovely. 25 cents.

**Dream**—Extraordinarily beautiful clear pink self. 25 cents.

**Edward Michael**—White standards—claret red falls—very bright and showy—good for borders. 25 cents.



**Eloise Lapham**—Pale satiny pink self. Dainty and free bloomer. 50 cents.

**Euphony**—One of the best copper blends—old gold with soft violet—A beauty. 25 cents.

**Fairy**—White—blue flush in the throat. Sweet scented. 25 cents.

**Fascination**—A bright pink toned variety. A large flower and one of the most popular pinks. 25 cents.

**Feronia**—Soft rosy bronze standards and rose crimson falls. 25 cents.

**Firefall**—Fiery red—loved by all who see it. 25 cents.

**Flamingo**—A gorgeous bronze red that overshadows all its neighbors. Can be seen a great distance. Long blooming season. 50 cents.

**Flavescens**—Old fashioned iris—creamy yellow self—valuable for setting off the darker iris in the garden. Sweet scented. 25 cents.

**Folkwang**—A truly different iris. Lilac tinged standards and brilliant pink falls. Shows a long way and has a long long blooming season. 25 cents.

**Forsete**—Attractive purple blue self, compact flowers of lovely texture—tall and free blooming. 25 cents.

**Fra Angelica**—A very fine apricot colored iris overlaid with frosty blue gray. Long season. Fine for table bouquets. 25 cents.

**Freida Mohr**—This magnificent iris has probably won more first prizes than any other iris. Tall, fragrant, beautiful pink. 40 cents.

**Frivolite**—An attractive pink iris of largest merit. Nothing better grown in pinks. 25 cents.

**Fro**—Deep rich gold standards—velvety bronze crimson falls. Sweet scented. 25 cents.

**Gaviota**—Lovely plicata—cream edged with palest yellow. 25 cents.

**George J. Tribolet**—Dark red purple, almost black—velvety. 25 cents.

**Georgia**—A beautiful orchid pink. 25 cents.

**Golden Glow**—A rich yellow self. 25 cents.

**Gold Imperial**—A tall fine golden self. 35 cents.

**Grace Sturtevant**—Rich red brown and carmine iris. Very fine. 35 cents.

**Hermosa**—A beautiful lavender pink. 25 cents.

**Hesperis**—Brownish red and fawn combination. Different. 25 cents.

**Imperator**—Light wine red self. 25 cents.

**Indian Chief**—An outstanding brilliant red iris. Early and tall. 50 cents.

**Iris King**—Yellow with rich maroon falls. 25 cents.

**Isolene**—Silvery rose standards, flushed with bronze, falls, mauve, veined with gold. 25 cents.

**Ivanhoe**—Beautiful heavenly blue. 25 cents.

**King Karl**—A beautiful frilled brownish red. 25 cents.

**Knysna**—Bronze, darker falls. 25 cents.

**Labor**—Reddish purple—much admired. 25 cents.

**Lady Byng**—Clear lavender self of pink effect. 25 cents.

**Lent A. Williamson**—Violet standards blended with rich yellow—falls pansy violet shade. 25 cents.

**Lerema**—Dull rich red iris. 25 cents.

**Lohengrin**—Light aniline blue standards and bright pale violet falls. 25 cents.

**Lord of June**—Very large lavender blue self with yellow throat. 25 cents.

**Lycæna**—White standards, very bright blue falls. 25 cents.

**Madame Chereau**—White. frilled with blue stitching. 25 cents.

**Madame Cheri**—A violet pink of good form. 25 cents.

**Madame Gaudicheau**—Large purple self, tall and very fine. 25 cents.

**Magnifica**—Crimson toned. Handsome in every way—Good grower and bloomer. Pleases everybody. 25 cents.

**Ma Mie**—White self, frilled and edged with violet stitching. 25 cents.

**Mary Gibson**—A handsome soft rosy bronze blend with golden throat. 25 cents.

**Medrano**—Brownish red iris. Unusual. 25 cents.

**Mester**—Large velvety blue iris. 25 cents.

**Mildred Presby**—Standards pale rosy lavender, falls velvety pansy. 25 cents.

**Morning Splendor**—Rich raisin red. Tall, fine, free-blooming iris. 25 cents.

**Mrs. Charles Pierson**—Pale blue self with silvery sheen. 25 cents.

**Mrs. Hetty Matson**—Grey blue standards and rich purple blue falls. 25 cents.

**Mrs. Marian Cran**—A very tall lovely ruffled pink. 25 cents.

**Murillo**—A rich brown red iris. 25 cents.

**Muscatel**—Light brownish red. 25 cents.

**Muzeris**—Standards are apricot, flushed with old rose, falls a bright rosy crimson. 25 cents.

**Nancy Orne**—Lovely pink type iris. 25 cents.

**Neptune**—Beautiful blue with lavender sheen—falls a deeper blue. 25 cents.

**Nibulengen**—Rich fawn changing to golden buff, falls a reddish purple. 25 cents.

**Onyx**—A very attractive and well liked iris. Cream standards and brilliant royal purple falls. 25 cents.

**Opera**—A favorite—rich wine red iris with velvety falls. 25 cents.

**Oporto**—Very attractive—pansy blue—free flowering. 25 cents.

**Pacific**—Large clear blue—early—magnificent. 25 cents.

**Parisiana**—A white iris thickly dotted with purple. 25 cents.

**Phyllis Bliss**—White with violet falls. 25 cents.

**Pioneer**—A very large and magnificent red purple iris. Good grower. 25 cents.

**Pluie d'or**—A very fine tall clear deep yellow. Awarded Dykes Medal. 50 cents.

**Princess Beatrice**—Delicate silky blue self. High rating. Tall fine grower. Sweet scented. 25 cents.

**Prosper Laugier**—Bronze and ruby colored. Unusual. 25 cents.

**Prospero**—A large free flowering purplish blue iris. Very fine. 25 cents.

**Quaker Lady**—Smoky lavender with buff tints. Very lovely. 25 cents.

**Queen Caterina**—Pale orchid blue self. Lovely texture—scented. 25 cents.

**Queen of May**—Lilac pink—early. 25 cents.

**Rameses**—Winner of the Dykes Memorial Medal—a beautiful flower in every way—pink. 25 cents.

**Rajput**—Bright violet self. 25 cents.

**Red Elf**—Very early—rich ruby red. 25 cents.

**Red Flare**—A new red variety of great promise. 25 cents.

**Ruea**—Standards of lonelia violet and falls of pansy violet. 25 cents.

**Rheingauperle**—An exquisite flower of fine form—soft pink tone. and one of the loveliest flowers in our field. 25 cents.

**Rhein Nixe**—White with purple blue falls. 25 cents.

**Rob Roy**—Rich red tone equal to Dauntless. You will love this iris. 40 cents.

**Rose Dominion**—Beautiful, brilliant rose color, quite unlike most others. 25 cents.

**Rose Madder**—Bright rose madder. Tall and fragrant. 25 cents.

**Rubeo**—A tall rich beautiful red of largest size. Nothing finer in the fields. 50 cents.

**Ruby Perry**—A bluish pink self—fine and tall—long season. 25 cents.

**Sacramento**—A giant in size—white bordered with red purple. One of the largest and best. 25 cents.

**Seminole**—Rich velvety crimson—none finer. 25 cents.

**Sha Jehan**—Standards soft creamy buff, flushed soft lavender and suf-

fused grey with a bright lemon yellow base. Falls are deep rich ruby red with eighth of an inch bordered in white. A most unusual and new flower. 50 cents.

**Shekinah**—A fine yellow self—tall and ruffled. 25 cents.

**Shiwassee**—Very large, tall fine red. 25 cents.

**Silver Ribbon**—A beautiful pink prize winner. 25 cents.

**Simplicity**—Lovely white iris slightly marked with grey. 25 cents.

**Sky Blue**—Our outstanding iris, five acres of this very tall, very fine, very fragrant lavender blue iris. 25 cents.

**Sonata**—A beautiful flower shading from buff to sulphine yellow. Falls are lilac shading to yellow. 25 cents.

**Steepway**—Iridescent pink mauve. Old rose effect en masse. Very beautiful and orchid like. 25 cents.

**Susan Bliss**—Rich rose pink self with delicate purplish sheen. Orange beard. 25 cents.

**Troost**—Rusty rose effect. 25 cents.

**True Delight**—A beautiful white with bright pink edges, fine form and an outstanding variety. 25 cents.

**Tuscorora**—A brilliant red toned flower that is highly attractive. 25 cents.

**Tuscany Gold**—A large well formed bronzed old gold iris. 25 cents.

**Virginia Moore**—A rich yellow gold self. 25 cents.

**White Knight**—A beautiful white self of wax like texture. No markings. 25 cents.

**White Queen**—Pure White and fine. 25 cents.

**Wyomissing**—Creamy white suffused with rose, rose deeper at the base of the falls. 25 cents.

**Yellow Moon**—Soft uniform yellow. 25 cents.

**Zada**—A white of medium height. Early. 25 cents.

**Zamora**—Attractive purple blue self. 25 cents.

**Zilia**—A fine tall pansy blue self. 25 cents.

All over the Otwell Iris Fields you will come upon beauty spots just like the following snapshots. Don't let the men folks drive through the fields like they were going for a doctor. Make them let you out so you can fill your soul with iridescent loveliness. If they won't, then leave them home next time. One of the sweetest visitors that has ever graced our flower fields came out from the Institution for the Blind at Jacksonville, Illinois. She smelled them, she caressed them, she called them pretty names and her exuberant happiness made us all ashamed of ourselves.

Will B. Otwell





At the gate, the autos turn left and the foot passengers turn right. They don't mix well. During May there is one unending stream of visitors. As the fields unfold, the crowds increase. A few days before and a few days after May 20, you may see 500 flower lovers at a time, strolling down the foot paths in search of their favorites. **The Otwell Iris Fields** are the meeting place for old friends and new. No swearing. No boistrous language. No crazy drivers, and no signs to keep off the grass. You are all welcome at Otwell's in May.

**WILL B. OTWELL**

## OUTSTANDING COLLECTIONS

Please look these over and see if some of them meet your requirements. They are all filled with very best plants and choice varieties. In fact, I send out but one grade—the very best.

Address, **OTWELL IRIS FIELDS, CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS.**

**1. Red, White and Blue.** Four Reds, four Whites, 4 Blues, among my prettiest varieties. Also as a good will stroke, I put you in one beautiful Pink free, all for **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

**2. White, Pink and Yellow.** Four Whites, 4 Pinks, 4 Yellows, also one Shiwassee—free. **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

**3. Nightingale Collection.** Three Sky Blue, 3 Caprice and 2 Crimson King—8 in all—for **only 50c.** 3 collections for **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

**4. Nine Sky Blue and Nine Caprice** for only **One Dollar,** or 18 of either one, **Postage Paid.**

**5. Memory Box.** One each of 12 leading varieties, Red, White, Blue, Pink,

Lavender. Nothing nicer and you also get one Shiwassee **free.** Parcels Post prepaid for only **One Dollar.**

**No. 6.** Two white, 2 Red, 2 Purple, 2 Blue, 2 Pink and Lavender, 2 Shiwassee. **One Dollar, Postpaid.**

**No. 10 Collection.** 100 Irises of ten different varieties. This collection will give you a fine start toward a commodious Iris garden. Ten each of ten leading sorts and I give you the best things I grow. All for **\$5.00, Prepaid.**

I send out thousands of collections. Of course, I ship more **Red Collections** than any others. It's the cheapest way and you get the benefit of my judgment.

**WILL B. OTWELL, Carlinville, Ill.**

My Iris Fields This Year Contain More and  
Finer Varieties Than Ever Before



## HERE IS THE REDDEST, THE NEWEST, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION OF REDS I HAVE EVER OFFERED

For a number of years I have been offering my **Reddest Iris Collection**. Every year I try to outdo myself. My fields are conducted largely for the happiness of **fifty thousand** people who come to see them in May. I can sell Irises very cheap, for I raise millions of them. Here is the **newest** and **cheapest** and the **reddest** collection I have ever offered.

**Four Seminole (Improved).** Among the largest and brightest and reddest blossoms of any **Reds**.

**Four Morning Splendor.** Large and tall and brilliant. Stands up in rain and storm. A crowd of people continually surround these blocks. I know of no Reds more to be admired than **Morning Splendor**.

**Four Emperor.** Tall and fragrant and beautiful. (Should I run low on

Emperor, I will put in 4 plants of Apache, Indian Chief, Tuscorora, Cardinal or Flamingo.

Then, to cap the climax, I will put in four Shiwassee (Indian name), the largest, newest and reddest Iris in the entire field. You are not apt to find it elsewhere as I bought the entire stock from Dr. Burchfield of Ann Arbor, Mich., except 4 plants and paid him five dollars per plant.

Then, to show my appreciation of your patronage, I will put in **two beautiful pinks** and also **two beautiful yellows**, making 20 plants in all, of the most beautiful things I grow and send them to you, Parcels Post Prepaid, for only **Two Dollars**.

You will love these red beauties. Instructions in every box. Address:  
WILL B. OTWELL, Carlinville, Ill.



Pictures are lots better than nothing but when you come, be sure to see the **Red Blocks**. Ten thousand **Morning Splendors** and ten thousand **Shiwassee** will make any driver slow up. Look long and carefully at the pictures above and try to lose yourself in a Sea of Red—with oceans of perfume thrown in for good measure.

I have often said, that among my dearest friends are many, many hundreds I have never seen. With every order, I send my deepest solicitations for your success. All my activities are saturated with deepest wishes for your happiness and well being. I live in hopes that some time I may meet you all face to face.

Address: **WILL B. OTWELL, CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS**



This is the way they come to the Otwell Iris Fields. Last year there were cars from 15 states in one day. Of course **one way traffic** must be observed. There is a perfectly good cinder road through the fields so that wet weather doesn't cut much figure. Every precaution is taken to safeguard the comfort and safety of our visitors. Reckless driving is out of place anywhere, but here in the Iris Fields there are people everywhere. No one with a grain of sense will drive fast in a crowd.

**Fast driving** is not a sign of **good** driving. It often happens that the fastest driver has the least to do when he gets there. Always, here and elsewhere, take thought for the safety and comfort of others. Flowers and happiness go hand in hand. Leave your grouches and scoldings outside the fields. Associate with sunshine and good wishes for everybody. First thing you know your life will undergo a great and beautiful change. **You will start to live.** You will attract good people to you. You will realize that to give of your talents to others is the greatest blessing that has ever come to anyone.

I never knew of so much happiness and good cheer and good wishes and joyous **life**—as attends the great crowds of lovely people, that come to the Otwell Iris Fields in May. You too are welcome—thrice welcome, without money or without price.

No admission fee. Nothing to pay—just thank the good Lord that you are alive and living in the garden spot of the world.

**WILL B. OTWELL, CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS**



Shiwassee and Morning Splendor. Beautiful Beyond Words.